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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------120431 042341Z /72
O 042226Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9872
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 00775
EXDIS
CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNSC, RH
SUBJECT: US-UK DISCUSSIONS ON RHODESIA AND SECURITY COUNCIL

REF: A. STATE 56194; B. DAR ES SALAAM 945; C. DAR ES SALAAM 939

SUMMARY. US AND UK AGREED AT SECRETARY VANCE-RICHARD (UKUN) MEETING MARCH 4 TO TRY TO HEAD OFF SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE ON RHODESIA IN SC BY CONVENING CONFERENCE OF INTERESTED PARTIES AS SUGGESTED BY NYERERE. END SUMMARY.

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1. SECRETARY VANCE, AMBS YOUNG, LEONARD AND MCHENRY MET UK PERMREP AMB RICHARD, AMB MURRAY AND UK MISOFFS AM MARCH 4.

2. SECRETARY VANCE INFORMED RICHARD OF FOLLOWING POINTS WHICH HAD BEEN AGREED IN VANCE-OWEN TELECON EARLIER IN DAY: A) SEEK TO AVOID FULL SCALE DEBATE IN SC AND

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INSTEAD CALL FOR CONFERENCE (OR HAVE SC CALL FOR CONFERENCE) OF ALL INTERESTED PARTIES WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF AAP. IT NOTED THIS ACCORDED WITH NYERERE'S CURRENT THINKING (REF B); B) IF THIS PROVED IMPOSSIBLE AND SC DEBATED MERITS EVERYONE SHOULD BE GIVEN CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE, I.E., IN PARTICULAR MUZOREWA; C) IF MUZOREWA OR OTHER PRINCIPAL FIGURES FROM INTERNAL TALKS OR PATRIOTIC FRONT WOULD BE COMING TO SC DEBATE OWEN WOULD PROBABLY WISH COME. IF HE CAME FOR DEBATE HE WOULD BE UNABLE ARRIVE BEFORE WEDNESDAY AND WOULD WISH MEET WITH SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON WEDNESDAY AND APPEAR IN SC THURSDAY.

3. RICHARD AGREED THAT APPROACH OF LIMITING SC ACTION TO CALL FOR SUCH A CONFERENCE WORTH TRYING. HE SAID HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH SALIM (TANZANIA) INDICATED SALIM AWARE NYERERE'S SUPPORT FOR CONFERENCE IDEA BUT NOT AWARE NYERERE WOULD PREFER AVOID COUNCIL DEBATE. SALIM INDICATED NKOMO COMING FOR SC DEBATE BUT MUGABE NOT.

4. IT WAS AGREED THAT OPTIMAL RESULT WOULD BE TO AVOID ANY COUNCIL ACTION FOR TIME BEING AND MERELY HAVE CONFERENCE OF ALL INTERESTED PARTIES CONVENED INSTEAD. SECRETARY SAID OWEN HAD INDICATED THIS PROBABLY TOO MUCH TO HOPE FOR. IT WAS AGREED THIS COULD BE OPENER WITH KEY AFRICANS, WITH FALL-BACK TO AGREED SCENARIO PURSUANT
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TO WHICH COUNCIL MEMBERS WOULD AGREE IN INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS TO RES THAT WOULD CALL FOR CONFERENCE AND LIMIT FORMAL MEETING TO ADOPTION OF RES FOLLOWED BY BRIEF STATEMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND DEFERRAL OF REMAINDER OF DEBATE FOR UNSPECIFIED FUTURE TIME.

5. IT WAS AGREED THAT FOR EITHER OF PREFERRED OPTIONS TO STAND A CHANCE HARRIMAN (NIGERIA) AND SALIM WOULD HAVE TO BE ONE HUNDRED PERCENT ON BOARD. TO THIS END IT WAS AGREED WE BOTH SHOULD APPROACH NYERERE AND GARBA ASAP IN ORDER GET PROPER INSTRUCTIONS TO HARRIMAN AND SALIM. AMB YOUND NOTED THAT HARRIMAN AND GARBA CURRENTLY LEAST RECEPTIVE TO THIS SORT OF APPROACH (REF C).

6. SUBSEQUENT TO ABOVE DISCUSSIONS RICHARD CALLED YOUNG TO INFORM HIM OF CONVERSATION HE AHD HAD WITH OWEN. HE CONFIRMED FACTS OF VANCE-OWEN TALK BUT EMPHASIZED UK PREFERENCE FOR NO SC MEETING, WITH UK AND US SIMPLY ISSUING STATEMENT INVITING ALL PARTIES TO CONFERENCE. BRITISH FEAR ANY SC MEETING, ONCE UNDERWAY, WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CONTROL AND WOULD INEVITABLY LEAD TO UNDESIRABLE RHETORIC. UK IS SENDING INSTRUCTIONS TO

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LAGOS AND DAR ES SALAAM TO URGE SUPPORT FOR ABOVE
SCENARIO AND, ON ASSUMPTION WE WILL BE SENDING PARALLEL
INSTRUCTIONS, ASKS THAT US REPS THERE COORDINATE WITH
BRITISH COLLEAGUES ON JOINT OR PARALLEL APPROACHES. POSTS
SHOULD TAKE NO RPT NO ACTION UNTIL RECEIPT OF INSTRUC-
TIONS FROM DEPT.

7. RICHARD SAID SALIM INSISTS HIS POSITION REFLECTS
THAT OF NYERERE. SINCE EMBASSY DAR REPORTING INDICATES
OTHERWISE, IN ANY APPROACH HE MAKES, AMB SPAIN SHOULD SEEK

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------120432 042339Z /62
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TO ENSURE THAT SALIM WILL RECEIVE PRECISE INSTRUCTIONS,
PREFERABLY TO SUPPORT OUR FIRST PREFERENCE OF NO SC
MEETING.

8. UK AND US AGREED TO DEFER APPROACHES TO MAURITIUS
AND GABON AMBASSADORS UNTIL MONDAY. RICHARD IS GOING TO
BRIEF FRENCH, HOWEVER, AND SUGGEST THEY TRY TO PERSUADE
FRANCOPHONES (UPPER VOLTA IS AFRICAN GROUP CHAIRMAN) TO
OUR VIEW. POSSIBILITY RECOGNIZED THAT SOVIETS COULD COM-

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PLICATE ACHIEVEMENT OF SCENARIO SET FORTH PARA 4 BUT GEN-
ERAL THINKING WAS THEY WILL BE UNLIKELY DO SO IF AFRICANS
SUFFICIENTLY FIRMLY ON BOARD.

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9. AMB RICHARD SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD HELP IF COUNCIL
MEETING AND PERHAPS EVEN CONSULTATIONS COULD BE DEFERRED
UNTIL MARCH 7. HE UNDERTOOK TO EXPLORE THIS POSSIBILITY
IN COURSE OF WEEKEND AND AM MARCH 6. AMB RICHARD NOTED
THAT SALIM HAD INDICATED THAT HE WOULD SUPPORT MUZOREWA
BEING HEARD BY SC IF THERE IS TO BE A SUBSTANTIVE
DEBATE. AMB YOUNG INDICATED HARRIMAN'S INTENTION TO
OPPOSE SUCH A HEARING. IT WAS AGREED THAT IF FALL-BACK
SCENARIO SET FORTH PARA 4 OBTAINED, WE WOULD PREFER THAT
NO ONE BUT COUNCIL MEMBERS SPEAK. YOUNG

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